October 1, 1969

Mr. Pat Welsh
Forty-Niner Shops, Inc.
6049 East Seventh St.,
Long Beach, Calif. 90801

Dear Mr. Welsh,

Of course, I'd like to speak to your group. Hal Verb wrote me about you and encouraged it.

I would require all my expenses, in advance, and whatever honorarium you can afford. Let me explain this.

Unlike Mark Lane, who began with a committee subsidizing him, Turner, who is paid and financed by Ramparts, or Penn Jones, who has a business and an outside regular income, I have been entirely without income or subsidy for five years. The result is that I am very deeply in debt. I have made three or four trips to California in the past, each time with the promise of expenses and fees, and in no case was the promise met. I simply do not have the money to put out in advance for my expenses.

Accomodations out there can be simple. I do not require a hotel room. If one of your group can provide local transportation, that also will be no cost. On this end there will be 100 miles of travel to and from the airport and air fare.

I would be willing to speak elsewhere. For example, if you can arrange a local lecture at which admission is charged. To promote this I would make such radio and TV appearances as you might arrange, getting there a day early for this purpose or doing it by phone (as I have often in LA). This sort of thing we can work out. Also, if you have a small group that is actively working in the field, I could meet separately with them and tell them things I would not say in public.

Unlike the others, I have never stopped my work. In addition to the four printed books I have published three limited editions, have several others researched and partly written, and have just finished a quarter of a million word study on the King/Ray case. I will not give you theory, wishful thinking, idle conjecture, but new fact. You ask "the gist of my lecture". Pick the aspect or aspects you want. I have two books done on the autopsy alone, much of their content entirely unknown, for example. I could spend a night talking about what did not come out in the New Orleans trial, even after I published some of it. I spent quite a long time down there doing my own, independent work, again the only "critic" do to this. I located unknown witnesses, got statements from those not interviewed by the FBI or the Commission, elicited from those who were questioned what they were not asked, established the existence of unknown Cuban camps in the area, etc. I would talk on whatever you prefer, and if you have more than one meeting, would use different materials at each.

Until now I have not been offered by a lecture bureau. This coming season I shall be. They are to ask not less than $500 an appearance. For the rest of this year, my time is relatively uncommitted, aside from work at home. However, beginning the first of the year my wife has temporary employment as a tax consultant. We live in the country and I provide her with transportation to and from town. In my absence, the cab fares can mount, so if you would like me to be there, I encourange you to make it as soon as possible.

I wish it were possible for me to appear at no cost to you. I hope you can understand why it is not.

And the truth is I am declining appearances where there is not a decent return for the time because the writing I have yet to complete is, I believe, important, and because we can no longer bear the additional financial burden this impose.

Incidently, in Long Beach I would welcome a polite confrontation with Joe Ball. In the event it is not arranged and I were to be there, I would write him and ask for a private meeting. If he declines, I would have additional things to say that might make the local papers and would, I am confident, be entertaining. I have some unpublished materials on him. And we have had a correspondence of sorts.

I hope we can arrange it and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg